### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

Jeremy Van Patten,	Plaintiff,	: Civil Action No.:
v. CBE Group, Inc.,		: : : : COMPLAINT
	Defendants.	: :

For this Complaint, the Plaintiff, Jeremy Van Patten, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 1. This action arises out of the Defendants' repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. ("FDCPA"), and the invasions of the Plaintiff's personal privacy by the Defendant and its agents in their illegal efforts to collect a consumer debt.
  - 2. Supplemental jurisdiction exists pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
- 3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that the Defendants transact business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

#### **PARTIES**

4. The Plaintiff, Jeremy Van Patten ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Schertz, Texas, and is a "consumer" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

5. The Defendant, CBE Group, Inc. ("CBE"), is an Iowa business entity with an address of 131 Tower Park Drive, Suite 100, Waterloo, Iowa 50701, operating as a collection agency, and is a "debt collector" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

#### **ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS**

#### A. The Debt

- 6. A financial obligation (the "Debt") was incurred to a creditor (the "Creditor").
- 7. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes and which meets the definition of a "debt" under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).
- 8. The Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to CBE for collection, or CBE was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.
- 9. The Defendants attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in "communications" as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

#### B. <u>CBE Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics</u>

- 10. Defendants called Plaintiff's cellular phone line in an attempt to collect a debt with the intent to annoy and harass.
- 11. On November 30, 2010, Defendants called Plaintiff at 9:50 p.m. in an attempt to collect the debt.
- 12. Defendants failed to inform Plaintiff that the communication was an attempt to collect a debt and everything Plaintiff said would be used for that purpose.

13. Defendants failed to inform Plaintiff of his rights under the state and federal laws by written correspondence within 5 days after the initial communication, including the right to dispute the Debt.

#### C. Plaintiff Suffered Actual Damages

- 14. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct.
- 15. As a direct consequence of the Defendants' acts, practices and conduct, the Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear and frustration.
- 16. The Defendants' conduct was so outrageous in character, and so extreme in degree, as to go beyond all possible bounds of decency, and to be regarded as atrocious, and utterly intolerable in a civilized community.

### **COUNT I**VIOLATIONS OF THE FDCPA 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.

- 17. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 18. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(a)(1) in that Defendants contacted the Plaintiff at a place and during a time known to be inconvenient for the Plaintiff.
- 19. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(a)(1) in that Defendants contacted the Plaintiff after 9:00 p.m.
- 20. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(11) in that Defendants failed to inform the consumer that the communication was an attempt to collect a debt.

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- 21. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice stating the amount of the Debt.
- 22. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(2) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice stating the name of the original creditor to whom the Debt was owed.
- 23. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(3) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice stating the Plaintiff's right to dispute the Debt within thirty days.
- 24. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(4) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice informing the Plaintiff of a right to have verification and judgment mailed to the Plaintiff.
- 25. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(5) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice containing the name and address of the original creditor.
- 26. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendants constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA, including every one of the above-cited provisions.
  - 27. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendant's violations.

# COUNT II INVASION OF PRIVACY BY INTRUSION INTO PRIVATE AFFAIRS

- 28. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 29. The Restatement of Torts, Second, § 652(b) defines intrusion upon seclusion as, "One who intentionally intrudes...upon the solitude or seclusion of another, or his private affairs

or concerns, is subject to liability to the other for invasion of privacy, if the intrusion would be highly offensive to a reasonable person."

- 30. Texas further recognizes the Plaintiff's right to be free from invasions of privacy, thus the Defendants violated Texas state law.
- 31. The Defendants intentionally intruded upon the Plaintiff's right to privacy by continually harassing the Plaintiff with calls to Plaintiff's cellular phone line, including a call at 9:30 p.m.
- 32. The conduct of the Defendants in engaging in the illegal collection activities resulted in multiple invasions of privacy in such a way as would be considered highly offensive to a reasonable person.
- 33. As a result of the intrusions and invasions, the Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages in an amount to be determined at trial from the Defendants.
- 34. All acts of the Defendants and its agents were committed with malice, intent, wantonness, and recklessness, and as such, the Defendants are subject to punitive damages.

## COUNT III INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

- 35. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein at length.
- 36. The acts, practices and conduct engaged in by the Defendants *vis-à-vis* the Plaintiff was so outrageous in character, and so extreme in degree, as to go beyond all possible bounds of decency, and to be regarded as atrocious, and utterly intolerable in a civilized community.
- 37. The foregoing conduct constitutes the tort of intentional infliction of emotional distress under the laws of the State of Texas.

38. All acts of the Defendants and the Collectors complained of herein were

committed with malice, intent, wantonness, and recklessness, and as such, the Defendants are

subject to imposition of punitive damages.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against the

Defendants:

1. Actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1) against the Defendants;

2. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 for each violation pursuant to 15 U.S.C.

§ 1692k(a)(2)(A) against the Defendants;

3. Costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C.

§ 1692k(a)(3) against the Defendants;

4. Actual damages from the Defendants for the all damages including

emotional distress suffered as a result of the intentional, reckless, and/or

negligent FDCPA violations and intentional, reckless, and/or negligent

invasions of privacy in an amount to be determined at trial for the Plaintiff;

5. Punitive damages; and

6. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS

Dated: December 30, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By: \_\_/s/ Diana P. Larson\_\_\_\_

Diana P. Larson

Texas Bar No. 24007799

The Larson Law Office, PLLC

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440 Louisiana, Suite 900 Houston, Texas 77002 Telephone: (713) 221-9088 Facsimile: (832) 415-9762

Email: diana@thelarsonlawoffice.com

Of Counsel To:

LEMBERG & ASSOCIATES L.L.C. A Connecticut Law Firm 1100 Summer Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Stamford, CT 06905 Telephone: (203) 653-2250

Telephone: (203) 653-2250 Facsimile: (877) 795-3666

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF